

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated June 3, 2008, claim 1 has been amended and claim 28 has been added. Claims 19-27 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-18 and 28 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claims 9-11 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

By this Response, claim 9 has been amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1. Therefore, claims 9-11, as amended, should be allowable.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 and 12-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahara (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,355).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites steps required to form a plurality of microlenses on one of a pair of principal faces of a display panel and includes, *inter alia*:

- ...
- (b) a step of forming a photocurable material layer on one of a pair of principal faces, being opposite to each other, of the display panel;
- (c) a step of exposing the photocurable material layer to light via the display panel, wherein the photocurable material layer is at least partially cured

with light which has been transmitted through at least the first picture element;
and

(d) a step of removing an uncured portion of the photocurable material layer having been exposed to light, thereby forming a plurality of microlenses.

For all these steps, the Examiner refers to the description at column 129, line 50 through column 130, line 65 of Takahara. However, no portion of column 129, line 50 through column 130, line 65 of Takahara, or any other portion of Takahara, has a description of any “steps” that are carried out to form the Fresnel lenses. In this regard, column 130, lines 28-33 describes:

The Fresnel lens (or a microlens) 641 may be a concave lens or a convex lens. The lens is set so that it is suitable to the position at which an observer sees. Also, *the Fresnel lens 641 of FIG. 106 may be a reflection type Fresnel lens. The reflection type Fresnel lens is formed by processing a metal plate.* (Emphasis added)

This would seem to correspond to the second production method described with regard to the Background Art at paragraphs [0017] through [0021] of the present application. This portion describes forming a microlens array substrate using a metal stamper, which is different from what the steps of independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable over Takahara, as are claims 2-8 and 12-18.

At any rate, independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly delineate the subject matter of the invention and recites, *inter alia*:

...

(a) a step of providing a display panel having a plurality of pixels in a matrix arrangement, wherein each of the plurality of pixels has a plurality of picture elements, including a first picture element transmitting first color light *to*

display the first color and a second picture element transmitting second color light which is different from the first color light *to display the second color*;

(b) a step of forming a photocurable material layer on one of a pair of *outer* principal faces, being opposite to each other, of the display panel;

(c) a step of exposing the photocurable material layer to light via the display panel, wherein the photocurable material layer is partially cured with light which has been transmitted through at least the first picture element...

In view of the above, the allowance of claims 1-8 and 12-18, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 28, depending from amended independent claim 1, has been added. Claim 28 delineates:

..., wherein
one of the first through third picture elements is a blue picture element transmitting blue light, and
the step of exposing the photocurable material layer to light via the display panel to at least partially cure the photocurable material layer includes having the light obliquely enter the photocurable material layer via each blue picture element.

This subject matter is described at, for example, paragraph [0073] of the present application. Takahara has no disclosure or suggestion that exposing a photocurable material layer to light via the display panel to at least partially cure the photocurable material layer includes having a light (for exposing the photocurable material) obliquely enter the photocurable material layer via each blue picture element. Therefore, claim 28 is patentable over Takahara.

CONCLUSION

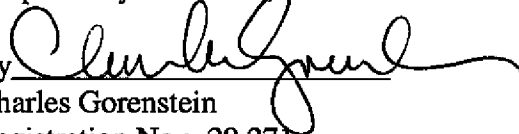
In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted

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